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To Whom It May Concern:

Broadband deployment and its use are critical to the development of communities across America. Now, more than ever, it is a crucial step towards competing in the global marketplace.

I am writing to convey the importance of ConnectKentucky. Their organization is instrumental with their leadership in making progress happen. Their affiliated programs such as the Computers 4 Kids program have made a tremendous impact in rural communities. I know for a fact that two rural libraries have just opened their doors in Floyd County due to the generous donations of new computers for these locations. Their leadership has also lead to Kentucky being ranked #1 in Broadband deployment in the United States.

ConnectKentucky was also instrumental in helping us make our entire town (pop 5000) completely wireless for free for a cost of \$8500. If you are interested in how I did it, please call me at 606-886-2335 or go to meraki.com.

Clearly, they play an important part in the development of Kentucky and beyond. In fact, their model has helped to shape ConnectedNation and other state model programs dedicated to making America a force in development.

As you implement the Broadband Data Improvement Act, please make every effort to ensure that ConnectKentucky is eligible for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. As we work together toward economic recovery, it is crucial that the federal government offer funding and support to existing public-private partnerships which have proven effective in bridging the digital divide.

If not now, then when? If not us, then who?

Wise words indeed.

Sincerely,

Brent Graden